BOOK REVIEWS

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Endovascular intervention: New tools and techniques for the 21st century

Frank J. Criado; Armonk, New York; Future; 243 pages; $89.95.

This book,Volume 3 in a series entitled *Endovascular intervention: Today and tomorrow*, is edited by Frank Criado, MD, of Baltimore, a vascular surgeon and recognized pioneer, innovator, and enthusiast in the growing field of endovascular intervention. His major message, which he states in the introduction, is that "developments in endovascular technologies continue to have an overpowering influence in the vascular world." For the most part, his book is a reasonable introduction to some of the developing technology currently available to supplement the established treatment armamentarium for practitioners with an interest in peripheral vascular disease.

The book consists of a series of essays organized as 14 chapters, which were written by 32 contributors from the United States (23), Netherlands (4), France (3), and Brazil (1). The contributors' backgrounds are vascular surgery, cardiology, vascular medicine, interventional radiology, and engineering, and each has an interest in endovascular or minimally invasive technology.

The primary strengths of the book are its brevity, the variety of its contributors, and the inclusion of topics such as chronic venous insufficiency and the engineering aspects of stent design, which generally would not be considered in a short, introductory textbook. The synopsis provided in the first chapter serves to encourage the reader to seek more detailed information. There are also good chapters summarizing the design and application of endovascular devices for mechanical thrombus removal (Chapter 8) and examining the issues involved in the aortic imaging required for endovascular repair of infrarenal abdominal aortic aneurysms (Chapter 4). The engineering essay on stent design (Chapter 12) is particularly interesting to this reviewer, but it might be considered by some to be out of place in this text.

The major weaknesses of the book concern style and appearance. The overall lack of a coherent plan is exemplified by inclusion of the chapters on medical therapy and laparoscopic aortic replacement in a book on endovascular intervention. Many of the chapters are of variable quality and some of them overlap or contain redundant material. More importantly, they lack a uniform format and balance. This introductory text could be more useful to a novice in the field if it contained a chapter on the essentials of guide wires, catheters, and sheaths, and had more emphasis on the conduct of basic procedures. Although endovascular infrarenal aortic aneurysm repair is discussed as part of the first chapter, which is really an overview of vascular therapies, a separate chapter dedicated to this topic, arguably one of the most important current applications of endovascular technology, would be more useful. Disappointingly, the chapter on carotid stenting has only two paragraphs on embolic protection, another important consideration, while the role of intravascular ultrasonography, especially in the treatment of aortic dissections, also needs amplification. The editing is inconsistent, and the conspicuous lack of a uniform writing style, as well as the presence of some typographical errors, at times contribute to a sense of confusion. A major concern is the use of black and white illustrations that are often unclear. While line drawings have generally been reproduced well, some radiographs are of poor quality. The quality of the intraoperative photographs, which usually do not have arrows or other aids to clarify them, is also inconsistent, and some are nearly illegible. Other images, which appear to be reproductions of color slides, are almost indecipherable in the gray-scale format.

Consequently, although useful, the book is only a moderate value for those vascular surgeons or interventionalists already familiar with the fundamentals of endovascular therapy, who might wish to obtain a brief overview of some endovascular applications.

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Vascular surgery cases, questions and commentaries

George Geroylakos, Hero van Urk, Robert W. Hobson II, and Keith D. Calligaro; London, United Kingdom; Springer-Verlag; 250 pages; £139.

As stated in the foreword, this book is unique in its approach in covering all aspects of vascular diseases. The format of this text is the presentation of a clinical scenario that includes a clinical case presentation along with relevant physical and laboratory data. The clinical scenario is followed by a series of either multiple-choice questions or open-ended questions asking for lists or for a narrative answer. After each of the questions there is further information about the clinical case in an attempt to further develop the clinical situation. At the end there is a Commentary section in which there is a discussion of the clinical case along with didactic information that answers each of the questions. There are 45 concise chapters, each covering a different problem in vascular diseases.

As with any book with multiple authors, some of the contributions are better than others. The breadth of the topics covered is quite comprehensive and quite up-to-date. There is a reasonable amount of material on endovascular techniques. From a practical point of view, I think that the multiple-choice format is better for this type of text than the open-ended questions. Individuals who want to undertake some self-assessment or who would like to review for a Board exam would be more comfortable with multiple-choice questions. I think that some of the chapters would benefit from a few more references to justify some of the answers and that some of the chapters would benefit from fewer references, including only those references that justify the answers to the questions. The book would benefit from more figures and perhaps some more non-invasive laboratory data and figures.

This is a unique text and can be very helpful in self-assessment. Its relatively small size makes it a good travel companion when one wants to find some time for refreshing one's knowledge.

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Cerebrovascular ultrasound: Theory, practice, and future developments

Michael Hennerici and Stephen Meairs; Cambridge, United Kingdom; Cambridge; 427 pages; $200.00.

The editors intended this book as a comprehensive reference for clinicians. As is usually the case with multi-authored works, the goal is met to varying degrees and there is some problem with overlapping coverage. At first overview, I am impressed by the high quality of the presentation. The reproduction of illustrations is top

quality, with a generous number of color plates. All of the chapters are up-to-date, with extensive recent references.

The first section covers ultrasound principles. After the introductory chapters, the level of several chapters on hemodynamics is clearly beyond the level of interest of most clinicians. On the other hand, the chapter on ultrasound artefacts and problems is a real gem and should be required reading for everyone performing carotid duplex scans. The section on cerebrovascular pathophysiology covers the current thinking on the nature and development of the carotid plaque. This section includes a discussion of the evaluation of endothelial function with brachial artery reactivity. There is a good discussion of the natural history of the asymptomatic lesion but, unfortunately, not a corresponding chapter on the symptomatic carotid. The two sections on applications cover the principal areas in cervical and transcranial scanning and provide a thorough overview of each of the topics. The book ends with a presentation of new areas, including three-dimensional imaging, use of contrast agents, and ultrasonic thrombolysis.

Although the authors have set as their goal the provision of a definitive reference text, it is unlikely that clinicians in the field will find this a necessary addition to a library. The sections of interest to most vascular surgeons will be available in other references and articles on the typical office shelf. The book should be most useful for new clinicians entering the field of cerebrovascular diagnosis, because of the good overview in a single source.

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CORRECTIONS

In: "Endothelial cell seeding fails to attenuate intimal thickening in balloon-injured rabbit arteries" (Conte MS, Choudry RP, Shirakowa M, Fallon JT, Birinyi LK. J Vasc Surg 1995;21:413-21).

The name *Choudry* is spelled incorrectly. The correct spelling is *Choudhury.*

In: "Fabric tears as a new cause of type III endoleak with Ancure endograft" (Teutolink A, van der Laan MJ, Milner R, Blankensteijn JD. J Vasc Surg 2003;38:843-6).

The abstract of this article incorrectly identified W. L. Gore & Associates as the manufacturer of the Wallstent. W.L. Gore & Associates neither manufactures or distributes the Wallstent. As stated on page 844 of the article, Boston Scientific Corp (Natick, Mass) is the manufacturer.